

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 02379 270740Z
ACTION SIG-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 /014 W
-----004970 271115Z /13
R 261600Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 376

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 2379

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HAMILTON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASIG
SUBJECT: AF/W INSPECTION: SUGGESTED FIELD TRIP

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1363

1. INSPECTION TEAM GREATLY APPRECIATES YOUR WELL THOUGHT-OUT PROPOSAL FOR FIELD TRIP TO ZOUEATE AND NOUADHIBOU, WHICH WE AGREE WOULD BE USEFUL AS WELL AS HIGHLY INTERESTING.

2. WE CANNOT CONSIDER THE VISITS ESSENTIAL TO CONDUCT-OF-RELATIONS INSPECTION, HOWEVER, AND REGRETFULLY BELIEVE IT PRUDENT TO DECLINE YOUR OFFER TO ARRANGE SUCH A TRIP, BECAUSE:

A. BELIEVE THE TEAM WILL BE THE BETTER FOR HAVING A TWO-NIGHT BREATHER IN DAKAR AT TIME WE WILL HAVE BEEN TWO MONTHS ON THE ROAD.

B. OUR SCHEDULED ROAD TRAVEL JUNE 23 DAKAR-NOUAKCHOTT SHOULD GIVE US SOME SENSE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IN BOTH SENEGAL AND MAURATANIA, EVEN IF IN THE LATTER PORTION NOT ECONOMICALLY MEANINGFUL, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY ELIMINATES UNCERTAINTY OF AIR SCHEDULES FOR ONE LEG OF ITINERARY.

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C. SEVERAL TEAM MEMBERS ARE FAMILIAR WITH MAJOR MINING/ DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

D. IT IS OUT OF KEEPING WITH NATURE OF INSPECTION, OF USG ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCE USE, TO SEEK AS EXTENSIVE RELATIONSHIP TO HOST-NATION AS THE TOUR WOULD ENTAIL.

3. I HOPE, THEREFORE, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND OUR PREFERENCE TO HOLD TO ESTABLISHED SCHEDULE. WE WILL OF COURSE WISH TO HEAR YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE SAHARA CONFLICT AND RECEIVE UPDATE ON DROUGHT-RELATED AND OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES. FURTHER, IF IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO YOU IN ANY WAY, I WOULD BE GLAD TO TAKE ONE OR TWO OTHER TEAM MEMBERS FOR A SNIM BRIEFING IN NOUAKCHOTT ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND PROSPECTS..JAMES

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